

PUEBLO EAST HIGH SCHOOL
MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pueblo East High School men's basketball team and their coach, Dave Ryder. In their third time in the State finals, the Pueblo East Eagles claimed their first Class 4A State basketball title. This was Coach Ryder's final year with the Eagles after teaching for 29 years and 10 years as head coach.

After an exciting and challenging game, the Eagles production in the half court helped them beat Denver South 58 to 51. In a thrilling back and forth between these two teams, Pueblo East's defense made the difference, allowing their opponent to only score two points in the final 2:41 of the game.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Pueblo East men's basketball team and their extraordinary coach, Dave Ryder. Under Coach Ryder's expert guidance, the team captured their first men's basketball championship in school history, and built a base that I have no doubt will win many more State titles to continue their legacy of success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,554,275,708,064.70. We've added \$6,927,398,659,151.62 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING LLOYD MITCHELL

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lloyd Mitchell for his many years of exemplary service to the state of Missouri. Lloyd retired on February 11, 2014 after more than 46 years of service to the Texas County Sheriff's department.

In 1968, at age 43, Lloyd began his career in law enforcement as Deputy Sheriff of Texas County. In 1994, he became a bailiff in Texas County and held this position up until his retirement. Over the course of his career, Lloyd developed a reputation for conducting his job with the utmost integrity. His professionalism has set a high standard of work ethics that will serve as an example for future generations of law enforcement professionals.

In addition to his many years of service to the sheriffs' department, Lloyd is a published

author and has served as a Deacon for his local Church. His dedication to serving Texas County has helped countless residents and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

HONORING MITCHELL LIBMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mitchell Libman of Hollywood, Florida, who for more than five decades worked to ensure a dear friend received the recognition he deserved for his heroism and sacrifice during the Korean War.

In 1951, Mr. Libman learned that his childhood friend, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, lost his life during combat and received the Distinguished Service Cross for his service. After hearing about Private Kravitz's heroics from some of the soldiers who fought by his side in Korea, he was inspired to dig deeper into the circumstances of his death.

Mr. Libman found that his friend's service was indeed extraordinary. During an ambush of Communist forces, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz sacrificed his own life when he took over a machine gun so that his platoon could retreat to safety. It became clear that Private Kravitz's heroism qualified him for the Medal of Honor and yet he never received one. During his years of research, Mr. Libman began to suspect that Private Kravitz could have been bypassed for the Medal of Honor due to possible prejudice in the military against his Jewish heritage. He decided to take the issue to Washington.

As a result of Mr. Libman's heartfelt advocacy, Congress passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 requiring the Pentagon to undergo a review and determine if Jewish and Hispanic Americans serving in our Armed Forces could have been overlooked for the Medal of Honor due to bias in the military.

The Pentagon's review did more than confirm that Private First Class Leonard Kravitz indeed fit the criteria for the Medal of Honor. It also revealed 23 additional cases of soldiers who went above and beyond the call of duty and yet never received the Medal of Honor for their extraordinary service. Last fall, I was pleased to pass H.R. 3304, an amended version of the National Defense Authorization Act ensuring that every soldier discovered during this review to be worthy of the Medal of Honor would finally be recognized.

On March 18, 2014, Mr. Libman's decades of work culminated in President Barack Obama awarding all 24 soldiers with the Medal of Honor. Seeing the President finally issue these long overdue awards should remind us all of the power every American citizen has to make a difference, and I am profoundly grateful for Mitchell Libman's years of determination and love of country.

RICHARD GOTTLIEB

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Gottlieb, a World War II Veteran, who served his county as a B-24 gunner with the 15th Air Force, 55th Bomb Wing, of the 465th Bomb Group, 780th squadron stationed at Pantanella Air Base in Italy.

The 465th Bomb Group served as a strategic bombardment group on two different missions, bombing strategic points near Vienna, Austria, on July 8, 1944, and two steel plants at Friedrichshafen, Germany, on August 3, 1944. His group was given a Distinguished Unit Citation for carrying out their missions despite enemy anti-aircraft and fighter pilot fire.

Mr. Gottlieb was born in 1925, and spent most of his life in Brooklyn, New York. As a troop leader for the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Gottlieb travelled by train through the State of Colorado to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Northern New Mexico, where he first saw and fell in love with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, vowing to one day live there. In 1990, he moved to Ft. Garland, Colorado, and has been residing at the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake since 2006.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Richard Gottlieb for his service to our country during WWII and for the contributions he made to preserve our freedom.

RECOGNIZING PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT
OF COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT
JESSIE SWOFFORD FOR HER
COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO
WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Jessie Swofford of Tacoma has just been named one of the top honorees in Washington by the 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers across the country.

Jessie is being recognized for helping improve the lives of children with autism and their families through volunteering with Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT). Each month Jessie volunteers at FEAT's "Super Saturdays", where she organizes games and activities for children with autism. Jessie also mentors teenagers with autism and spends her summers volunteering with an intensive intervention program for youth with autism.

Jessie herself battled a digestive disorder and a botched surgery as an infant, and dyslexia growing up, all of which she has overcome. Today she is enrolled in advanced placement and honors courses, and she is discovering her passion to become a speech pathologist.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind